



**VISION:** Eau Claire is a vibrant city with exceptional quality of life and services.

**MISSION STATEMENT:** It is our mission to assure the common good through services essential for a safe, sustainable, engaged and healthy community.

Popular Website Links: [City Website](#) [City Calendar](#) [City Council Members](#) [Citizen Resource Bank Form](#)  
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### Happy Holidays from the City of Eau Claire!

Here are the holiday hours:

City Administrative Offices will be closed on Thursday and Friday, December 24 & 25, and Friday, January 1.

City Bus Service Hours:

Thursday, December 24: Bus service until 6 p.m.

Friday, December 25: No bus service

Thursday, December 31: Regular bus service hours

Friday, January 1: No bus service

L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library Hours:

Thursday, December 24: Closed

Friday, December 25: Closed

Thursday, December 31: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Friday, January 1: Closed



**We wish everyone a safe and  
happy holiday season!**

## Elections

Want to help determine the future course of the City and reside within the City limits of Eau Claire? Consider running for City Council! You have until January 5 to file the necessary registration and nomination papers with the City Clerk. The five at-large (city-wide) seats are up for three-year terms. There is also a special election in Aldermanic District #1 (northeast part of the city) for a two-year term. Want more information? Contact the City Clerk's office at 715 839-4912.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Joe Smith
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	John Citizen
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jane Doe
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fred Rubble
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mary Hill

###

## Attorney

### Sears Holdings Corp v. City of Eau Claire Litigation Update

The City prevailed in a court of appeals decision issued this week in *Sears Holdings Corp v. City of Eau Claire*. This case is a tax assessment challenge involving the 2011 and 2012 property tax assessments for the Oakwood Mall Sears store and auto center. Sears was seeking a partial refund of real estate taxes imposed on an assessed property value of \$6.6 million. Sears asserted a value of only \$3.8 million before the Board of Review, and then \$4.65 million before the Circuit Court.

The Board unanimously sustained the City Assessor's value, and the Circuit Court did as well after a three-day trial held in 2014. The only argument on appeal by Sears was that the City Assessor, Al Andreo, did not properly apply the principles set forth in the Wisconsin Property Assessment Manual in reaching his assessment and, therefore, was not entitled to a presumption of correctness. The Court of Appeals rejected that argument and found that Andreo's assessment report and testimony demonstrated he did comply with the Manual.

The Court also noted, as did the Circuit Court, Mr. Andreo's experience and expertise in the field and the quality of his work in producing a legally appropriate opinion of value, based on local sales of reasonably comparable properties. Sears has paid taxes on the \$6.6 million assessed value since the claim was filed. Sears will not receive the almost \$50,000 per year refund of tax payments it sought from the City and other local taxing jurisdictions. The City is entitled to court costs as the prevailing party.

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## Community Development



### Lazy Monk Plans to Open Next Month

A Royal Construction worker places a new sign on the new Lazy Monk Brewing building at 97 W. Madison Street. Lazy Monk plans to open January 8 and host a grand opening January 22 and 23. Footings for an outdoor patio were going in during the unseasonably warm weather, with the patio built in the spring.

## Bicycle Repair Station

A bicycle repair fix-it station was recently installed at Phoenix Park next to the trailhead building. The station provides a rack to hang a bicycle on for minor repairs. It includes an air pump and an assortment of tools attached to cables. Purchase and installation was a cooperative effort between the City's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission and Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department. Stations similar to this have been installed in area communities such as Wausau, Madison, and Minneapolis. The City plans to install another station at Lakeshore Park in the spring.



DECI PRESENTS  
**Christmastime in the City**  
*Downtown Eau Claire*

## Thank You Sponsors!

Downtown Eau Claire, Inc. would like to express thanks to all of our area business partners and sponsors that have supported this year's Christmastime in the City. Families enjoyed coming to have lunch with Santa, visiting with Santa's reindeer, horse-drawn wagon rides, Christmas performances, lighting the Christmas tree, and much more!



<b>ROYAL CREDIT UNION</b>	<b>JAMF software</b>
<b>South Barstow Business Improvement District</b>	<b>Ruder Ware</b> BUSINESS ATTORNEYS FOR BUSINESS SUCCESS®
<b>North Barstow/Medical Business Improvement District</b>	<b>MAYO CLINIC HEALTH SYSTEM</b>
<b>Mega! CO-OP</b>	<b>Chippewa Valley Theatre Guild</b>
<b>Thomas &amp; Leigh DECORATORS</b>	<b>Curvue</b> HIDEAWAY • TREES
<b>JB Systems</b>	<b>Clear Water COMEDY</b>
<b>Butter Bakery</b>	<b>PLUS</b>
<b>Upland Distributing</b>	<b>LISMORE</b>
<b>AMK CLEANING SERVICES</b>	<b>Jilly Pad Lab</b>
<b>Rock'it Out Entertainment</b>	<b>Macaroni Kid</b>

**www.DowntownEauClaire.org**

**DECI**  
DOWNTOWN EAU CLAIRE INC.

**Let it Glow!**

## Thank you sponsors!

### FULL TREE SPONSORS

<b>Ruder Ware</b> BUSINESS ATTORNEYS FOR BUSINESS SUCCESS® (2015)	<b>MOEDING PARTNERS</b> (2014)
<b>Dick Halmstad</b> (2015)	<b>North Barstow/Medical Business Improvement District</b> (2014, 2015)
	<b>Kerry &amp; Dan Kincaid</b> (2014)

### SPARKLE SPONSORS

<b>Riverfront Terrace Apartments</b> (2014, 2015)	<b>Russ &amp; MaryJo Van Gompel</b> (2014, 2015)
<b>Royal Credit Union</b> (2014, 2015)	<b>Jackie Erickson</b> (2014, 2015)
<b>Geoff &amp; Cindy Moeding</b> (2015)	<b>Mike &amp; Carolyn Carlson</b> (2015)
<b>Houligans Steak &amp; Seafood Pub</b> (2014, 2015)	<b>Banbury Place</b> (2015)
<b>Phoenix Park Urbanites</b> (2015)	<b>Cigan Properties</b> (2015)
<b>HuHot Mongolian Grill</b> (2015)	<b>Beverly Knutson</b> (2014)
<b>Roger &amp; Jenny Gostomski</b> (2015)	<b>Roger Gostomski</b> (2014)
<b>Dan &amp; Jane Pedersen</b> (2014)	<b>Jerry Parsons</b> (2014)
<b>Madison Street Auto Body</b> (2014)	<b>Jeffery Knutson</b> (2014)
<b>Tangled Up In Hue</b> (2014)	<b>Cindy Rasmussen</b> (2014)
<b>Volume One</b> (2014)	<b>Margaret Muleski &amp; Family</b> (2014)
<b>JR &amp; Fredrica Knutson</b> (2014)	
<b>Barbara McDermid</b> (2014)	

### IN-KIND SPONSORS

<b>Images By Lee Photography</b> (2014, 2015)	<b>image360</b> Graphics • Design • Display (2014, 2015)
<b>Travis Dewitz Photography</b> (2015)	

**www.DowntownEauClaire.org**



# Downtown Eau Claire's 2016 Calendar of Events

May 14



Our City Spring Clean Up

TBD



Urban Living Tour

August 6



Summer Fest & Family Night in the Park

August 24



A Grand Evening on the Bridge

September 17



International Fall Festival

October 31



Trick-or-Treating

December 2



Let it Glow!

December 3



Christmastime in the City

## Fire & Rescue



Eau Claire Fire & Rescue recently implemented a program in which homes in the Longfellow Elementary School community, as well as some Meals On Wheels recipients, are eligible for free smoke alarms installed by our City of Eau Claire firefighters.

While at the residence, firefighters offer to conduct home safety surveys for the occupant to help provide advice and assistance in minimizing risks within each home.

Consistent with the Fire Prevention Week motto, *"Hear the Beep Where You Sleep"*, we are strongly encouraging residents to have at least one smoke alarm on every level of their home AND one in each bedroom. Even if you currently have smoke alarms in your home, remember that they expire after 10 years - and expired ones need to be replaced.

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## Health



Give the gift of health and safety to yourself and others by following these holiday tips. Visit <http://www.cdc.gov/Features/HealthyTips/> for more information, tips, and fun activities.

- **Bundle up to stay dry and warm.** Wear appropriate outdoor clothing: layers of light, warm clothing; mittens; hats; scarves; and waterproof boots.
- **Manage stress.** Don't overcommit yourself and prevent holiday anxiety and pressure. Get enough sleep.
- **Don't drink and drive and don't let others drink and drive.** Whenever anyone drives drunk, they put everyone on the road in danger.
- **Monitor children.** Keep potentially dangerous toys, food, drinks, household items, and other objects out of kids' reach. Dress warmly for outdoor activities. Develop and reinforce rules about acceptable and safe behaviors including electronic media.
- **Practice fire safety.** Most residential fires occur during the winter months, so be careful to never leave fireplaces, space heaters, stoves, or candles unattended. Have an emergency plan and practice it regularly.
- **Prepare food safely.** Remember these simple steps: wash hands and surfaces often, avoid cross-contamination, cook foods to proper temperatures, and refrigerate promptly.



As you think about starting 2016 – consider what you can do to make a difference in the health priorities that have been identified in the *Eau Claire County: Healthy Relationship Promotion, High Risk Drinking Prevention, Mental Health, Obesity/Chronic Disease Prevention, and Oral Health Promotion*. Go to [www.echealthycommunities.org](http://www.echealthycommunities.org) to learn more about what we know about these health issues and what “Eau Claire Healthy Communities” is doing to address them.

###

## Library



### Sir Gawain and the Green Knight

Literature series led by Jan Stirm

*Tuesdays, February 2, 9, 16 & 23 • 6-7 p.m. • Chippewa Room*

*Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* is one of the most famous Arthurian romances, a tale of derring-do, of testing courage, and of courtly love. If you enjoyed the book or film versions of *The Lord of the Rings* or *Game of Thrones*, then you're sure to enjoy *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*!

Participants will read the poem in a modern verse translation of the 14th century poem, focusing on one of the four sections each week, and digging into the complex beauty of the poem to talk about the verse, the tale, and the culture it seeks to represent. Registration is required. Register online at [www.ecpubliclibrary.info/events](http://www.ecpubliclibrary.info/events).

### What's It Worth? | Antique & Collectible Appraisal Event

*Saturday, January 16 • 10:15 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. • Eau Claire Room*

Guest appraiser is Mark Moran, former senior editor of *Antiques and Collectibles Books for Krause Publications* in Iola, Wisconsin. **Appraisals appointments are full**, but observers are welcome!

### Winter is Here! Brrrr-ing on the Reading!

There are plenty of great events and programs going on at the library to help thaw the winter chill. Reading programs for kids, teens, and adults offer prizes for reading. Best of all...the return of storytimes for kids of all ages!

No registration required, but please follow our age recommendations to maximize enjoyment for yourself and others.

### Bouncing Babies

*Wednesdays • 10:15 a.m. (20 min.)*

For pre-walkers starting at birth. Rhymes, songs, stories, parachute games and bubbles!



**Little Movers**

*Thursdays • 10:15 a.m. (20 min.)*

For babies who love to move. Rhymes, songs, parachute games, stories and bubbles!

**Lap Tots**

*Mondays • 10:15 a.m. (20 min.)*

For one- and two-year-olds transitioning from baby to toddler storytime. Short stories, songs and parachute games.

**Toddler Tales**

*Tuesdays • 10:15 a.m. (20 min.)*

For two- and three-year-olds and a parent or caregiver. Easy-to-understand stories, songs and activities.

**Preschool Storytime**

*Fridays • 10:15 a.m. (30 min.)*

For preschool children. Stories, songs, rhymes and movement activities.

**Family Storytime**

*Saturdays • 10:15 a.m. (30 min.)*

Stories, finger plays, music and other activities. For ages two to six, but can be enjoyed by the entire family.



For information about library services, programs and events, visit the library online at [www.ecpubliclibrary.info](http://www.ecpubliclibrary.info), stop at Information & Reference on your next visit to the library, call 715-839-5004, or e-mail the library at [librarian@eauclaire.lib.wi.us](mailto:librarian@eauclaire.lib.wi.us).

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## Parks, Recreation & Forestry

### Winter Break Open Skating Sessions Begin December 23

Ready to try out those new ice skates from Santa? The Eau Claire Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department is offering special skating sessions on Wednesday, December 23, and then resuming December 28-31 at Hobbs Ice Center, 915 Menomonie Street.

- “School’s Out Rink Rats” hockey sessions will meet from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. for Mites and Squirts (ages 7-10) and from 12:45-1:45 p.m. for Peewees and Bantams (ages 11-14).
- Youths and adults can attend one or both sessions of Open Skating from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. or 1:15-3:15 p.m.
- “Rock’n New Year’s Family Skate” will be from 6-9 p.m. Thursday, December 31.

Admission for any special skate session is \$3 or a single punch with the Eau Claire City Pass. If attending both Open Skating sessions, the cost would be \$6 or two punches on a City Pass. Skate rental is included in admission. For more information, contact Parks and Recreation staff at 715-839-5040.

### New Location for “Merry Mulch” Tree Recycling Program

Christmas trees will have a shorter distance to travel before being transformed into future landscaping material. “Merry Mulch,” the Christmas tree recycling program with the City of Eau Claire Forestry Division, has moved from Carson Park to the Jeffers Road brush site, 5710 Jeffers Road. The City’s mulch-making equipment resides at the brush site, and it’s also the site where Eau County residents can acquire wood chips and mulch in the spring.

Participants can drop off their Christmas trees during daylight hours December 28 through January 10. Collected trees are then turned into mulch, which is later made available for free to county residents (up to 96 gallons per resident) in the springtime as landscaping material. For more information, contact the City of Eau Claire Forestry Division at 715-839-5039.

### Rock’n New Year’s Family Skate December 31

It’s not too early to start making New Year’s Eve plans. Enjoy a fun evening with family and friends at the Rock’ New Year’s Family Skate from 6 to 9 p.m. Thursday, December 31, at the Hobbs Ice Center, 915 Menomonie Street. Admission is \$3 and includes skate rental. The event features a disc jockey and video screen, a balloon drop with prizes, skating games, activity booths, hot chocolate and more. For more information, call Parks and Recreation staff at 715-839-5032.





### **Holiday Sale on Fairfax Pool Passes**

Get your 2016 Fairfax Pool Pass at the lowest price of the season! Purchase your pass from December 1 through January 31 for a 20 percent discount.

- Youth Resident...\$42      Youth Non-Resident...\$60
- Adult Resident...\$52      Adult Non-Resident...\$70
- Family of 3 Resident\*...\$98      Family of 3 Non-Resident\*...\$144

\*Add \$5 more for each additional family member

### **Donations Needed for Recreation Scholarships**

'Tis the season for giving. Each year, about 400 children are able to participate in Eau Claire Parks and Recreation programs, thanks to the City's youth scholarship program. The Parks and Recreation Department is accepting donations to assist with the upcoming year's scholarship requests. Based on financial need, a participant can have a portion of their registration fee subsidized through the scholarship program. To help, or for more information, call 715-839-5032.

###



### **Winter Reminder for Your Pets**

With the winter weather approaching, the Eau Claire Police Department – Animal Control Division wants to remind animal owners to be cautious of leaving their animals out in the cold for long periods of time, unattended. If at any time, when there is a call for an abused or neglected animal left outside in this weather (including in a vehicle), and it appears the animal is in distress, Animal Control will seize the animal and make the animal owner fully responsible for possible charges.



### **Are You Traveling this Holiday Season?**

With many people traveling over the upcoming holiday season, it is important to take precautions with your home while you are gone. Here are some helpful tips:

1. Keep all windows and doors locked.
  - Lock your doors every time you leave, even if you're leaving only for a few minutes. Consider installing deadbolt locks.
2. Create an illusion that you are home.
  - If your home appears occupied, a burglar will usually look for other more inviting sites. Leave a radio playing and a few lights on inside. Automatic timers can be used to vary the on/off pattern of interior lights when you are away.
3. If leaving for an extended period of time:
  - Ask a trusted neighbor to keep an eye on your home.
  - Stop mail and newspaper deliveries.
  - Have someone keep surfaces cleared of fallen snow.
4. Keep garage doors closed and locked.
  - An open garage door, with no car in sight, is a clear invitation to a burglar – especially if the garage is used to store items such as bicycles, power mowers, etc.

5. Mark your property for identification.

- Consider engraving your valuables with your driver's license number. Marked property can be traced and identified as yours and serves as a deterrent to would-be burglars. Create and maintain a list of all valuables including the make, model, description and serial number.

###

## Public Works

### Possible Changes Coming to Third Ward Intersection

Staff from the Engineering Division met with the Third Ward Neighborhood Association to discuss possible changes to the intersection at Park and Summit Avenues. Four possible designs were discussed in an effort to make the intersection safer for pedestrians and bicyclists, while not increasing traffic congestion. Engineering staff will return to the Neighborhood Association early next year to gather feedback and determine a preferred design. Once a final design is selected and approved by the City Council, work on the intersection would likely begin by summer 2016.

### Business Improvement District Apprised of Parking Change

Engineering Division staff met with North Barstow Business Improvement District members to discuss the recently approved changes to downtown parking fees. The North Barstow BID had endorsed a plan that enforced two-hour parking six days a week. However, the City Council approved a plan that enforced two-hour parking seven days a week – a plan endorsed by the South Barstow BID. The plan will be applied across both BIDs for consistency of enforcement and to reduce confusion among downtown visitors.



### First Pours Made on New Parking Ramp Level

Record warm temperatures last week made for muddy conditions, but work continued without incident on the new North Barstow parking ramp. Crews made their first concrete pour on the ramp's fourth level. Previous rain and snow had delayed pouring the concrete earlier in the month.

###

## Eau Claire City Council



### City Council Meeting Summary – December 21 & 22, 2015

The City Council conducted public hearings on the following items:

- Ordinance rezoning property at 4814-4940 Bullis Farm Road from C-3P to R-3P to adopt the General Development Plan for multi-family development.
- Ordinance rezoning property at 1004 Menomonie Street from RM-P to C-2P and to adopt the General Development Plan for a restaurant/bar.
- Ordinance rezoning property at 1709 Harding Avenue from C-3 to C-2P and to adopt the General Development Plan for a mixed-use building.
- Ordinance rezoning property at the east end of High View Drive and west of Old Wells Road from R-1 and R-1A to R-1P and to adopt the General Development Plan for single-family homes with a reduced front yard setback.

The City Council granted the following resolutions and ordinances:

- Resolution granting new bartender licenses.
- Resolution granting a Temporary Class B Fermented Malt Beverage license to St. Olaf Parish, Pastor Paul Hoffman, President, on January 8 & 22, and February 5 & 19, 2016, from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., at 3220 Monroe St., for St. Olaf Men's Club Fish Fry Dinners.
- Resolution granting the renewal of Secondhand Article Dealer license for the 2016 licensing year.
- Resolution granting the renewal of Secondhand Jewelry Dealer license for the 2016 licensing year.
- Resolution authorizing the Fire Department to apply for Department of Homeland Security – Assistance to Firefighters Grant monies to purchase defibrillators.
- Resolution authorizing an appropriation adjustment to the West Grand Avenue BID's 2015 Operating Budget.



- Resolutions authorizing the L. E. Phillips Memorial Public Library to accept \$75,000 in grant monies from the State Energy Program's Planning and Implementing Clean Energy Investments in Wisconsin Communities to re-lamp the library.
- Resolution approving appointments to various Boards, Committees and Commissions.
- Resolution supporting the efforts of RAVE (Register And Vote Eau Claire) to increase voter registration and election participation.
- Resolution amending the City's Debt Management Policy.
- Resolution approving the renewal of an agreement with the Eau Claire Horseshoe Club for the use of Carson Park.
- Resolution approving the renewal of an agreement with the Friends of the Chippewa River Trail, Inc. for the use of the trailhead kiosk in Phoenix Park.
- Resolution declaring official support for the Downtown River Walk Project.
- Resolution approving an employment agreement and appointing a City Manager.
- Ordinance in accordance with Section 66.0217 Wisconsin Statutes, annexing to the City of Eau Claire and particularly to the 15<sup>th</sup> Assessment Ward, 3<sup>rd</sup> Aldermanic District, that part of Lot 1 of Certified Survey Map Number 2381 recorded in volume 13 on page 76, Lot 1 of Certified Survey Map Number 2434 recorded in volume 13 on page 188, also being part of Lot 40 of First Assessor's Plat all located in the NW ¼-NE ¼ of Section 32-27-9, Town of Washington, Eau Claire County, as shown on Planning Drawing No. 15-4A (Olson Petition, west of State Street, north of Westover Road).
- Ordinance rezoning property at 4814-4940 Bullis Farm Road from C-3P to R-3P to adopt the General Development Plan for multi-family development.
- Ordinance rezoning property at 1004 Menomonie Street from RM-P to C-2P and to adopt the General Development Plan for a restaurant/bar.
- Ordinance rezoning property at 1709 Harding Avenue from C-3 to C-2P and to adopt the General Development Plan for a mixed-use building.
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